

COMMUNITY FACILITIES - SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Town of Eastham Goals and Performance Standards

The Cape Cod Commission, through its Regional Policy Plan for Barnstable County, has established overall planning goals and minimum performance standards for Solid and Hazardous Waste Management. Eastham's goals and minimum performance standards are consistent with the Regional Policy Plan.

- 4.2 Goal:** To manage solid waste using an integrated solid waste management system that includes waste reduction, recycling, reuse, composting, incineration and landfilling. The underlying intent is to maximize the reduction of trash as the means to maximize reduction of costs and to minimize environmental damage.

Minimum Performance Standards

- 4.2.1 Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) shall address both the construction and post-construction phases of development or re-development. A construction plan shall demonstrate how the applicant proposes to handle solid wastes, recyclables and construction/demolition wastes.
- 4.2.2 If construction demolition is to be generated as part of a proposed development or redevelopment, written notification will be required for the following:
- The types of material that will be generated, manner by which recycled materials as part of the C&D waste stream will be separated and stored on site prior to disposal;
 - The destination of all recycled materials separated out from the C&D waste stream; the manner by which both C&D and recycled materials will be delivered to markets; and, written notification from the Bourne ISWMF stating that the amounts of C&D to be generated and disposed can be accepted at the Bourne facility without compromising the ceiling put in place by both the Commission and the DEP.
- 4.2.3 A post-construction management plan shall demonstrate how an applicant proposes to handle the following:
- Recyclables and solid waste, including the manner by which they will be collected on site;
 - Location and type of containers where the materials will be stored on site;
 - How collection and holding facilities will be screened from abutting properties;

- The types of materials to be generated the anticipated quantities of materials to be generated;
- Destination of materials.

4.3 Goal: Hazardous wastes generated by Eastham households and businesses shall be disposed of in an environmentally sound manner.

Minimum Performance Standards

- 4.3.1 The Town shall place strong emphasis on proposed development and redevelopment to minimize their hazardous waste generation through source reduction, reuse, material substitution, employee and citizen education, and recycling.
- 4.3.2 All activities and developments shall be in compliance with Massachusetts Hazardous Waste Regulations, 310, CMR 30.00.
- 4.3.3 The use, treatment, generation, storage or disposal of hazardous wastes or hazardous materials, with the exception of household quantities, shall not be allowed in Zoning Districts G (Water Protection), and Zoning District H (Wellhead Protection).
- 4.3.4 Development and redevelopment shall prepare an emergency response plan that identifies potential threats to employee safety and health and threats of environmental releases and describes ways to reduce those threats.

Existing Conditions

The Eastham Board of Health has adopted regulations, which address the management of solid waste and recyclable materials, and transfer station operational standards. The regulations require the separation of compostable and recyclable materials from refuse which goes to SEMASS or to a landfill. These regulations supplement 310 CMR 19.000, which for The Town of Eastham adopts enforcement purposes.

The Eastham Transfer Station in the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2001 handled 3924 tons of trash including 3411 tons that were sent to SEMASS for incineration and 513 tons of trash that was sent to the Bourne landfill for disposal. In addition 920 tons were recycled instead of being disposed of as trash; 30 additional tons were moved through the Eastham Stock Exchange (swap shop) to be reused. Residents purchased 80 additional compost bins from the Town in 2001 to add to the large number of bins now in use. They provide another means to reduce the amount of trash that would be sent to SEMASS.

Hazardous household products including auto batteries, tires, used oil and oil filters, fluorescent lamps and bulbs, items containing mercury, propane tanks and latex/oil-based paint were collected in 2001 through the Board of Health annual Hazardous Waste Day collection or throughout the year as special drop-offs at the Transfer Station.

The Town received awards from the DEP for increases in the tons of material recycled, and the Town also received a grant for a special study to identify steps to be taken to provide recycling access for the large seasonal population. This study will proceed in 2002.

Problems/Needs

A redesign plan for the Transfer Station has been developed by the Recycling Committee and Weston & Sampson Engineers. The current transfer station was built at a time when recycling involved one recycling roll-off which was located off in one small corner. Currently, still in the same area, the core recyclables of the Town include cardboard, mixed paper, newspapers, returnables (glass, metal, plastic), clear glass containers, colored glass containers, plastic containers 1 & 2, and metal cans and aluminum trays.

The recycling area is totally located on dirt, which makes moving and dragging equipment a crude process. It also makes using the area difficult for recyclers because of awkward access to the drop-off points. Traffic and walking is a complicated and precarious situation particularly during the summer periods. The current recycling area is too small, and it is impractical to implement a new design in the current location. Transportation costs have escalated due to the increased volume of recyclables and to higher prices for hauling both trash and recyclables. The situation is aggravated by the low density of some recyclables and the lack of equipment to compact loads effectively. Significant and recurring cost reductions can be accomplished by utilizing compactor roll-offs to handle most recyclables. Compactor roll-offs equipped with receiving-hoppers, which are easy to access for users, can make recycling much more attractive to more people. The easier recycling is, the more people will recycle and the more people recycle, the less trash we generate.

The contract with the SEMASS waste-to-energy facility for incineration of solid waste expires in 2015. As with most other Cape towns, Eastham's cost per ton is much lower than the current and projected market rates for disposing of trash at SEMASS. There is concern that a new contract may be at a much higher cost to the community. Visits to Nantucket and Marlborough were made to observe their solid waste composting facilities and consider the applicability of a regional composting process as a possible future alternative to SEMASS. Other alternatives need also to be identified and considered. It is also recognized that strong efforts to divert increasing amounts of materials to recycling, reuse and composting would enable Eastham to avoid sending related amounts of trash to SEMASS and avoid those SEMASS costs. Since these types of reductions repeat in future years and can be enhanced by additional future increases in recycling etc., the impact in 2015 on the amount of trash and cost that the community will need to address could be very significant.

The Board of Health has been involved in an effort whereby several towns would jointly take part in several Hazardous Waste Days each year. Such a step would provide citizens of each town the opportunity to dispose of such waste several times a year -- good for individuals, towns and the environment. Agreement among the towns has not been reached.

The majority of seasonal residents, including short-term vacationers, are not recycling during their stay in Eastham. The Town has a study grant from DEP which will explore what needs to be implemented in order to make it possible for vacationers to recycle on a source separated basis and what needs to be done to provide haulers the capability to unload bulk recyclables at the Transfer Station.

Implementation

Recommended Town Actions

- A. Eastham should work with other Cape Cod communities to find acceptable methods to recycle, compost or dispose of construction and demolition debris, mattresses, DPW wastes, and Tri-Town Septage Treatment Facility by-products (grit, screenings and sludge).
- B. To offset the increased cost of disposal of non-recyclable solid waste, Eastham should focus on maximizing recycling by making recycling easy, by promoting access to recycling for seasonal residents, and by utilizing other incentives to recycling such as unit based pricing.
- C. Eastham should consider dedicated funding for an annual household hazardous waste collection for residents to dispose of accumulated hazardous waste.
- D. Eastham should contract to implement the redesign plan for the Transfer Station.
- E. Eastham should adopt a toxic and hazardous materials bylaw to prevent the improper use, storage and disposal of such materials, utilizing the Barnstable County model bylaw or other similar bylaw.
- F. Eastham should continue to work toward multi-town joint participation in the collection of hazardous waste with a goal of providing citizens the opportunity to drop off hazardous waste several times per year.
- G. Eastham should continue to seek out alternatives to processing of solid waste including possible regional solutions and evaluate viable long-term alternatives to SEMASS.

See “Solid and Hazardous Waste Management” in the Implementation section.